

## Chapter 3 IMPLEMENTING THE MISSIONS OF CAP – AN OVERVIEW

### Section A - General

**3-1. Guidance.** The first thing you need to do in implementing any of CAP's missions is *ask a lot of questions*. This chapter highlights the CAP missions and provides information on where to get regulatory guidance. The regulations, however, are no replacement for experience. Contact your local host CAP unit, group (if you are in one), and/or wing leaders and ask them for advice and direction. They've been in your position and know the pitfalls to avoid. Keep phone lists of contacts (flight commander, local squadron commander, group commander, or any other member that can be of assistance) handy at all times. Remember - the only bad question is the unasked question.

### Section B - Cadet Programs (CAPR 52-16, *CAP Cadet Training Program*)

**3-2. Aviation.** The CAP cadet program introduces thousands of young people to aviation beginning with orientation flights at the local level. The cadets are offered outstanding summer programs including an opportunity to fly solo in a light airplane at low cost. The program is designed to motivate and develop well-rounded young people, who in turn will become model citizens and the future leaders of our nation.

**3-3. Training.** Throughout the cadet program, emphasis is placed on individualized study, preparation, instruction, and attainment. Each phase of the cadet program emphasizes five areas of achievement: leadership laboratory, aerospace education, physical fitness, moral leadership, and squadron activities. These five areas of achievement are implemented through the use of trained senior cadets and senior members who work collectively and individually with each cadet desiring and needing assistance. The program is primarily oriented toward activities held in individual squadrons. Some of these activities include aircraft orientation flights, model airplane building, drill teams, model rocketry, and search and rescue, flight, and survival training.



**3-4. Rewards.** In addition to the pleasures of associating with outstanding people and realizing individual accomplishments, CAP amply rewards cadets for their successful efforts. The number of achievements completed in the cadet program determines not only a cadet's

grade, but also his or her eligibility for outstanding activities and valuable scholarships. Cadets may qualify to take flight instruction leading to a private pilot certificate or attend special courses hosted by the United States Air Force. Cadets who complete their Mitchell Award (Phase 2) are eligible for pay grade E-3 (Airman First Class) upon enlisting in the Air Force.

**3-5. Getting Things Started in Your Unit.** Work with your local host squadron Deputy Commander for Cadets and assign a highly motivated senior member as the deputy commander for cadets. CAPM 52-16, *Cadet Program Management*, provides insight to the cadet program. This guide and CAP 1, 2, and 3 training schedules are your primary source for establishing and maintaining an effective cadet program. Training instructions for your senior members are outlined in CAPR 50-17, *CAP Senior Member Training Program*.

## **Section C - Aerospace Education (CAPR 290-2, *Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Mission*)**

**3-6. Definition.** CAP defines aerospace education (AE) as "that branch of general education concerned with communicating knowledge, skills, and attitudes about aerospace activities and the total impact of air and space vehicles upon society." The aerospace education programs are designed to promote an understanding and appreciation for the importance of aviation and space exploration to our society and national security.

**3-7. Programs.** There are two aerospace education programs to accomplish these objectives and purposes: an "internal" program and an "external" program.

a. **The Internal Program.** The internal program is concerned with two factors: (1) the aerospace education portion of the CAP cadet program, and (2) aerospace education activities for senior members of CAP. Cadets must pass comprehensive aerospace education exams as they advance throughout each award level. A voluntary self-study program called Aerospace Education Program for Senior Members (AEPSM) is available for senior members wanting to increase their understanding of aerospace-related activities. Senior members with an interest in aerospace education can become aerospace education specialists and support the cadet, senior, and external programs.

b. **The External Program.** The success of CAP's external aerospace education program is primarily dependent upon establishing and maintaining rapport with educational institutions, promoting aerospace education, and establishing and maintaining aerospace education networks with other aerospace-related organizations. The CAP aerospace education volunteer staff and a Region Director of Aerospace Education (RDAE) accomplish these activities. The RDAE, a paid CAP employee, establishes and maintains the bridge between CAP programs and volunteers, and the external aerospace education needs and resources in national, region, state, and local communities. The external program's primary areas are aerospace education in schools, aerospace education workshops, and liaison with the educational community.

c. The ultimate goal of aerospace education in all schools, as in CAP, is to provide students with information on aerospace matters. Then they become capable of making the best

possible decisions as to the directions our country should take with regard to defense, space utilization, air transportation, space exploration, aerospace research, and other aerospace concerns. A side benefit, close relationships between local units and schools and school systems, is that an "aviation-minded" school becomes an excellent source of both cadet and senior members.

**3-8. Getting Things Started in Your Unit.** Work with the wing and region aerospace education officers and assign a highly motivated senior member the responsibility for the unit aerospace education program. Provide that member CAPR 280-2, *Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Mission*. Encourage your new aerospace education officer to enroll in the Aerospace Education Specialty Training Track. Instructions are outlined in CAPR 50-17, *CAP Senior Member Training Program*. With that foundation, you are on your way to a successful aerospace education program for your senior and cadet members.

**Section D - Emergency Services. (CAPR 55-1, *CAP Operational Missions Procedures*; CAPR 50-15, *CAP Operational Missions*; CAPR 60-1, *CAP Flight Management*)**

**3-9. Search and Rescue.** CAP's talents have augmented the Air Force in search and rescue (SAR) and disaster relief/disaster preparedness since CAP's formation in 1941. It has always been there to assist the nation in times of disaster or in any emergency situation when its resources - people and equipment - could be used.

**3-10. Primary Objective.** The emergency services' primary mission objective is to save lives and relieve human suffering. To be effective, the lives of CAP personnel performing the mission must be safeguarded. CAP demands professionalism in organization, training, and mission execution to accomplish this service. Only qualified members are allowed to participate in actual missions. The emergency services mission includes search and rescue and disaster relief operations.



**3-11. Training.** Included in the lesson plans for CAP 1 are instructions in radio communications and American Red Cross first aid/CPR. This is just the beginning of the training required to become emergency services qualified. All CAP personnel who participate in SAR operations are highly-motivated volunteers who have been specially trained. Lifesaving techniques must be carried out with speed and efficiency. This speed and efficiency is attained through prior planning and practical exercises in performing the tasks required. CAP units may not participate in a SAR mission unless they have people trained to quickly and successfully accomplish the mission. Find out if your local fire department or emergency operations center can give demonstrations. Contact your local host unit, group, or wing staff to establish when higher level training is being provided. Routine safety training is very important as well. Talk to

your wing safety officer. What kind of people should you look for? Try to get qualified professionals to join your organization. Emergency medical technicians, first aid instructors, and nurses can provide a strong foundation for a growing unit focusing on emergency services. You will also need a cadre of radio operators. Check local radio stores and find out if there is a HAM radio club in your area. Go visit them and ask for their help. You will also need pilots. Talk to successful emergency service units that have aircraft and ask how they built their corps of qualified pilots. Take advantage of the training offered by your local host unit, group, or wing. These are the things that may be accomplished during the summer school break.

**3-12. Disaster Relief.** Disaster relief (DR) includes civil defense, natural disasters, and man-made emergencies. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the single point of contact within the federal system for disaster relief planning and management. The organization of CAP DR efforts is very similar to the SAR mission. The main difference is that FEMA controls the mission. CAP always retains command of CAP resources, but mission control is delegated, usually at the state level, to the agency primarily responsible for a particular DR operation.

**3-13. Other Flight Activities.** CAP flight activities are not limited to SAR and DR. There is a national level agreement between CAP and the US Customs Service. Under this agreement, CAP flies reconnaissance missions to assist US Customs Service, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and state and local authorities in the control of drug traffic. These activities are very tightly controlled by CAP regulations. CAP personnel have no law enforcement authority. They receive very specific training and are acting in a support or reconnaissance role only. If you are considering a counterdrug (CD) role, talk to your wing commander.

**3-14. Getting Things Started in Your Unit.** Instructions for establishing and conducting SAR operations are found in the following directives: CAPR 55-1, *CAP Operational Missions Procedures*; CAPR 50-15, *CAP Operational Missions*; CAPR 60-1, *CAP Flight Management*; and CAPR 50-17, *CAP Senior Member Training Program*. Becoming an operational SAR unit is not easy. It takes motivated people who are serious about training to save lives. Getting trained and staying proficient takes time and money; however, ask anyone credited with a "save" and you will know it's worth it!